

## Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

## 40

MARYLAND FOOD CENTER AUTHORITY410.

This subtitle may be cited as "The Maryland Food CENTER Authority Act."

411.

The General Assembly of Maryland makes the following declarations as a statement of its legislative intent in the enactment of this subtitle:

(1) The marketing of food is a matter of public interest; the maintenance of wholesale market places is and has always been recognized as a public function; the vast quantities of food and related food products brought annually from all parts of the United States into the wholesale markets in the Greater Baltimore Region are obliged to pass through market facilities which are obsolete and inadequate to meet present needs; the scattered locations and difficulty of access with respect to such markets constitute an economic loss; the obsolescence of these markets is responsible for much of the high cost of food handling and for the deterioration which takes place both within the wholesale markets and between the markets and the consumer's doorstep; modern consolidated facilities would result in an annual saving; there is need for a consolidated wholesale food market within the Greater Baltimore Region; and in spite of this great need, efforts on the part of the State of Maryland, the City of Baltimore, the wholesale food trade, the growers, and the transportation industry have failed to bring about the creation of a satisfactory consolidation of wholesale markets.

(2) The construction, operation, and maintenance of wholesale markets, and in particular a consolidated market for the Greater Baltimore Region, as defined herein, would require the expenditure of a large sum of money; the financial systems of the political subdivisions of the Greater Baltimore Region are not designed to handle projects of this type on a nonprofit, self-liquidating basis, and the best method of distributing responsibility for this problem and of achieving the creation of a market is to create and empower a market authority as a public corporation, the function of which would be to acquire land for and to construct and operate such a market; and to aid and assist by the making of loans and otherwise those persons engaged in the wholesale food industry who wish to locate in such market.

(3) The public health and safety of the citizens of the State of Maryland are adversely affected by the unsafe, obsolete, and unsanitary conditions of existing food markets.